(b) whether Government in the prevailing economic conditions propose to accept the said recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Additional dearness allowance/relief due to Central Government employees/pensioners

1944. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of additional dearness allowance/relief has become due to the Central Government employees/pensioners with effect from 1 January, 2008, in terms of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration to grant interim relief to the employees and pensioners in view of their long standing demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the date from which the same would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) 6% additional dearness allowance/relief has become due to the Central Government employees/pensioners with effect from 1 January, 2008 in terms of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission.

(b) and (c) No proposal is under consideration for grant of interim relief to Central Government employees and pensioners.

Delay in disposal of seized/confiscated goods

1945. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are instances of abnormal delay in the disposal of seized/confiscated goods by the Customs Department leading to spoiling or deteriorating of the quality of such goods and in tern resulting loss of revenue to Government;

(b) whether such cases have pointed out by Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) during their audit;

(c) what is the work of internal department in avoiding irregularities committed by Income Tax and Customs departments; and

(d) whether it is a fact that many of audit paragraphs could be avoided provided the internal audit did its job rightly and effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The non-disposal of imported or export goods which are unclaimed, un-cleared or confiscated involving customs revenue to the extent of Rs. 287.95 crore was pointed out by the C&AG of India in its report for the year ended 31 March 2004 (No. 10 of 2005).

(c) CBDT has introduced new internal audit system by issuing instructions which aim to avoid mistakes on the part of assessing officers. The Customs Department conducts internal audit on import transactions taking into consideration the duty liability of the imported goods to ensure that the customs duty has been paid correctly and in a proper manner. The Directorate General of Inspections of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) has now been entrusted the work of inspection of all the records of cases pertaining to non disposal of cargo by the custodian on a periodical basis.

(d) Yes, Sir. The new internal audit system in the CBDT and the additional work of the Directorate General of the CBEC have been introduced with this in mind.

Gender budgeting

1946. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the impact of budget on women, particularly after gender budgeting has been introduced;

(b) if so, how many women specific schemes were funded by Government with the results thereof;

(c) whether there is any system of social auditing of such schemes;

(d) what has been done by Government to link all women with micro finance credit;

(e) whether some States could not utilize the funds fully on such schemes;

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(g) what monitory mechanism Ministry has got to see that funds allocated under various women specific schemes are utilized fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As an institutional mechanism to strengthen gender budgeting, its implementation and impact analysis, Gender Budgeting Cells have been set up in 54 Ministries /Departments. Planning Commission has also advised all Cenral Ministries/Departments to have a section on Gender Budgeting incorporated in the Annual Plan 2007-08 and in the 11th Five Year Plan, in which they are required to provide details on gender impact assessment of various schemes. Ministries/Departments, in addition, reflect the impact of various schemes/programmes through the Performance/Outcome Budgets.

(b) Statement No. 20 of Expenditure Budget Vol. 1 2008-09, highlights the budget provisions made towards welfare of women under various schemes/programmes. According to the statement which embraces 33 demands for grants contributed by 27 Ministries/ Departments and 5 Union Territories, Rs. 11,460 crore has been provided for 100 percent women schemes and Rs. 16,202 crore on schemes where at least 30% of the allocation under the schemes is envisaged to benefit women.

(c) Department of Expenditure has issued general guidelines for Outcome Budget, which includes provision for Independent Evaluation of all Government programmes/schemes.